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# STAR FORCE

TM









# ATARI FORCE



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**PART TWO**

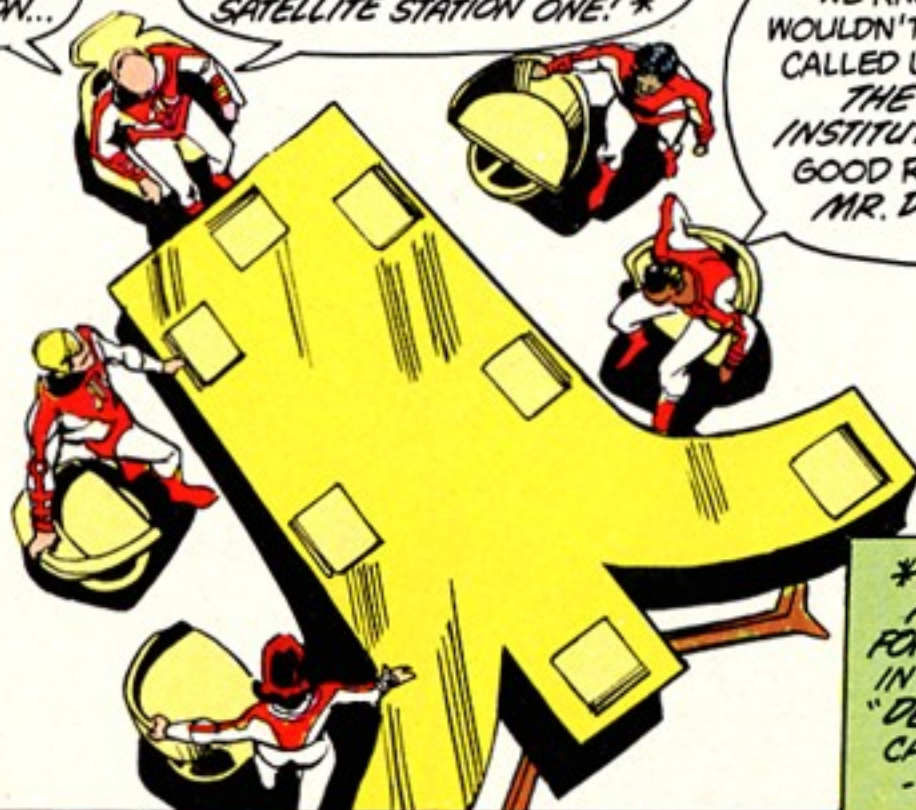
**CHAPTER ONE:**

# BERSERK

COMMANDER  
CHAMPION...  
DOCTOR ORION...

...THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
THE TRIP HERE FROM SOLAR  
SATELLITE STATION ONE! \*

WE KNOW YOU  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
CALLED US BACK TO  
THE ATARI  
INSTITUTE WITHOUT  
GOOD REASON,  
MR. DIRECTOR!



\* SEE  
ATARI  
FORCE #1,  
IN ATARI'S  
"DEFENDER"  
CARTRIDGE.  
--EDITOR.


BUT WHY SUCH  
TIGHT SECURITY?

WE HAVE WHAT WE  
THINK ARE GOOD  
REASONS, DOCTOR.

PROJECT:  
MULTIVERSE IS  
TOP SECRET--







AH, 'TIS A RUDE  
AWAKENING YOU'RE  
IN FOR, MR.  
DIRECTOR!

SAD TO SAY, YOUR  
DEAR SECURITY  
ISN'T QUITE SO  
TIGHT AS YOU  
MIGHT THINK!

--AND FOR THE  
SAKE OF OUR WAR-  
WEARY WORLD, WHAT'S  
REVEALED TO YOU  
TODAY--MUST NEVER  
LEAVE THIS ROOM!

**THE YEAR:**  
2005 A.D.

**THE PLACE:**  
THE NORTHCAL HEAD-  
QUARTERS OF THE ATARI  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IN  
THAT PART OF NORTH  
AMERICA THAT USED TO  
BE KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE THE "BREAK-UP..."

**THE SITUATION:**  
A WORLD IN CRISIS...



FOR ALL  
YOUR FINE  
TECHNOLOGY--

-- ALL YOUR  
RADAR AND HEAT-  
SENSITIVE  
SENSORS--

-- A MERE SLIP OF  
A GIRL HAS MANAGED  
TO MAKE HER WAY INTO  
THE VERY HEART OF  
YOUR "WELL-GUARDED"  
ATARI COMPLEX!



SURE,  
AND IT'S  
AS I  
ALWAYS  
SAY--

"ANY  
SECURITY  
SYSTEM CAN  
BE BEATEN.

"ALL IT TAKES  
IS TIME--

-- AND A  
LITTLE  
INGENUITY!"





TAKE THIS SOUND-  
PROOF PLASTIGLAS  
DOME, NOW.

IT'S SUPPOSED  
TO KEEP AN EAVES-  
DROPPER FROM  
HEARIN' THE  
SECRETS BEING  
WHISPERED  
BELOW.

BUT,  
WITH A  
PORTABLE  
STETHA-  
SCAN...

...YOUR VOICES  
COME THROUGH  
AS CLEAR AS  
SUNRISE OVER  
DUBLIN BAY!

--PROJECT: MULTIVERSE IS  
THE CODE NAME FOR AN ATTEMPT  
TO BREAK THE DIMENSIONAL  
BARRIER THAT SEPARATES US  
FROM AN INFINITY OF ALTERNATE  
WORLDS!

"ALTERNATE"  
WORLDS?

WORLDS WHOSE  
HISTORY DIVERGES  
FROM OUR OWN,  
COMMANDER.

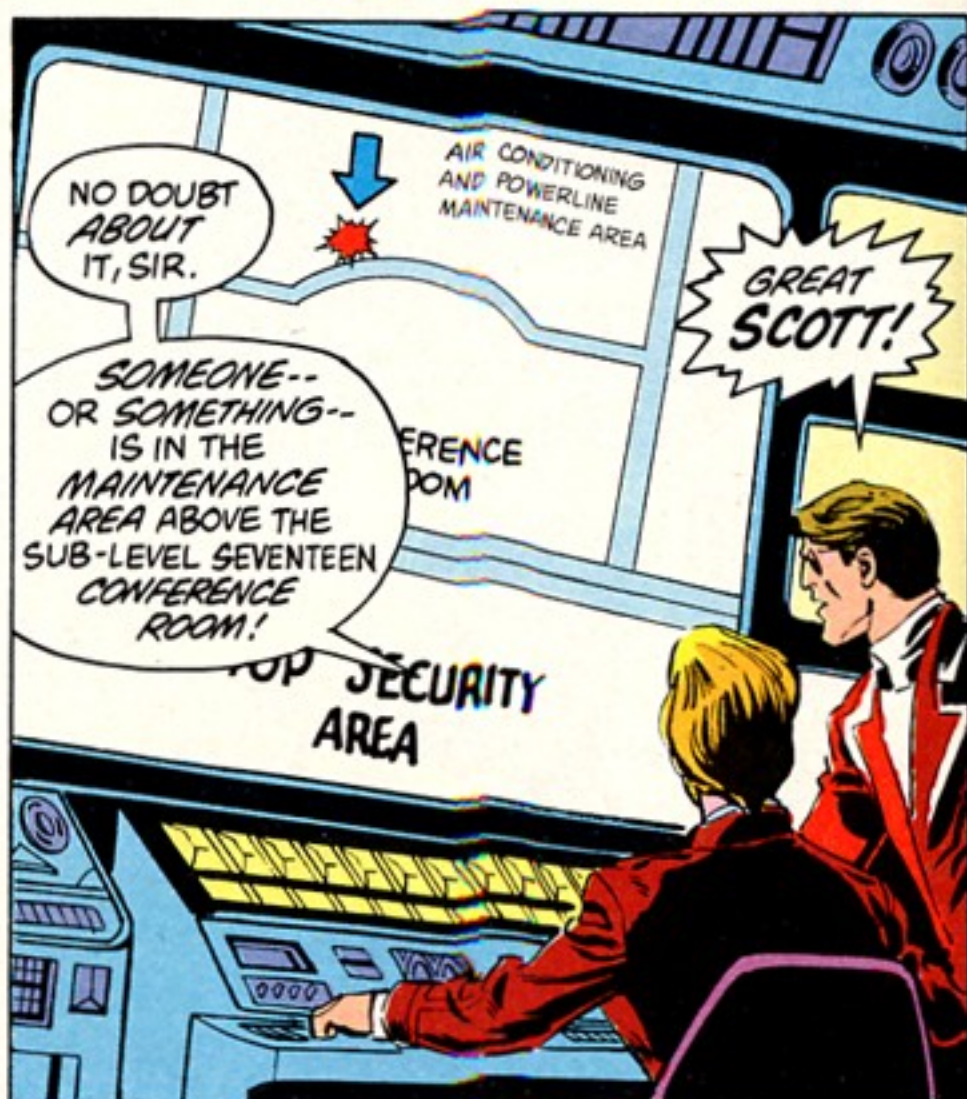
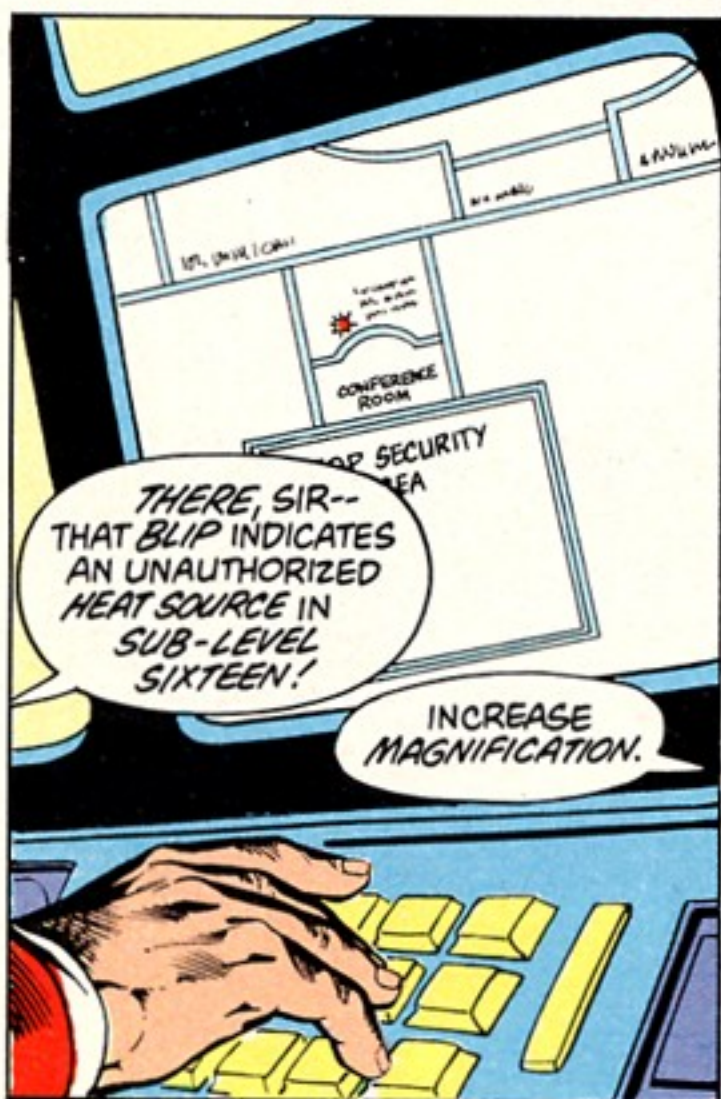
BUT ISN'T  
THAT JUST A  
FANTASY?

PURE SCIENCE  
FICTION?

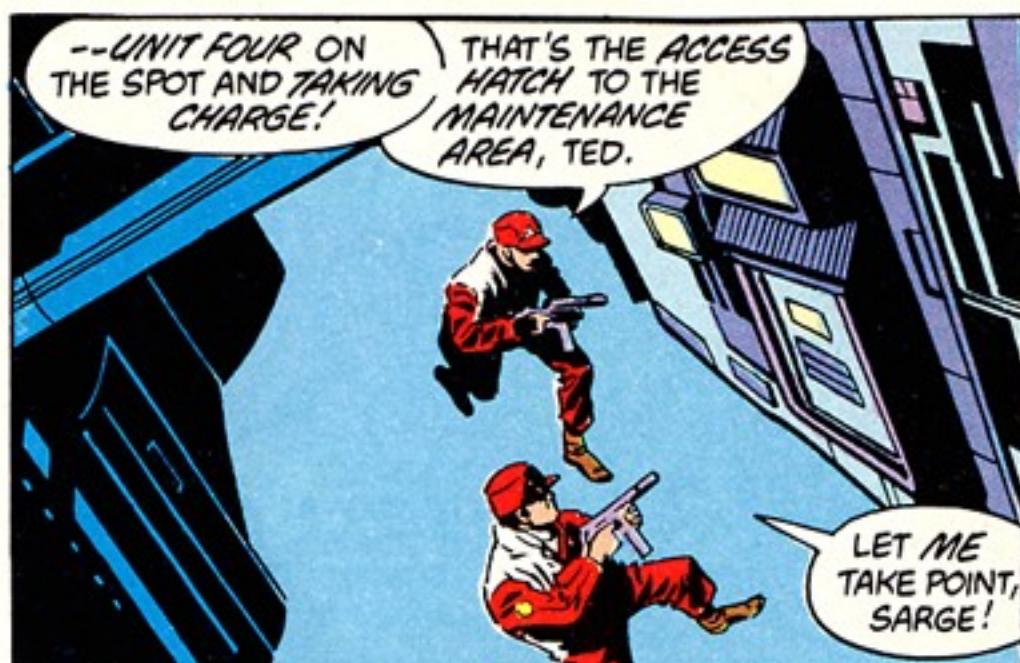
PLEASE,  
DOCTOR...LET  
THE DIRECTOR  
EXPLAIN...

...WITHOUT  
ANY MORE  
INTERRUPTIONS!













YES,  
YES.

THIS IS WHAT YOU  
ARE THINKING.

WELL THEN,  
MY NAME IS  
MOHANDAS  
SINGH.

MY PRESENCE  
HERE IS AS MUCH A  
MYSTERY TO ME  
AS TO YOU.

THE  
MOHANDAS  
SINGH?



THAT'S RIGHT,  
MARTIN.

THE MOHANDAS  
SINGH...CO-INVENTOR  
OF THE MICRON  
COMPUTER CHIP,  
CO-INVENTOR OF  
THE SINGH-LAZLO  
DIFFRACTION  
DRIVE...



... AND DIRECTOR OF COMPUTER  
RESEARCH HERE AT THE INSTITUTE  
FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS!

MAYBE NOW YOU'RE  
BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND  
HOW IMPORTANT THIS  
PROJECT IS!

OF COURSE, I  
WOULDN'T EXPECT AN  
EX-JOCK MILITARY  
MAN LIKE YOUR-  
SELF TO--

WHAT ON  
EARTH  
IS THAT?

FLASHING  
LIGHTS...RED  
FLASHING  
LIGHTS...

ALARMS--  
SOME KIND  
OF RED  
ALERT!

**BREE BREE**



EH? WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
TO SINGH?

HE LOOKS  
LIKE HE'S  
GOING  
INTO A  
TRANCE...

NOT A TRANCE,  
BUT RATHER, A  
REVERIE...

...AN UNWILLING FLASH-  
BACK OF MEMORY TO A  
TIME TWENTY YEARS BEFORE,  
IN THE CROWDED STREETS  
OF NEW DELHI, WHEN A  
MUCH YOUNGER MOHANDAS  
SINGH LIVED THE WILD LIFE  
OF AN URBAN ORPHAN IN  
THE WORLD'S MOST  
DESPERATE CITY...

HE WAS POOR--  
HE WENT  
HUNGRY EVERY  
DAY, OR SO IT  
SEEMED--

--BUT IN ONE  
AREA OF HIS  
LIFE, HE WAS  
RICH:

HE HAD A FRIEND...  
A FELLOW URCHIN  
WHO CALLED  
HIMSELF RAJA.

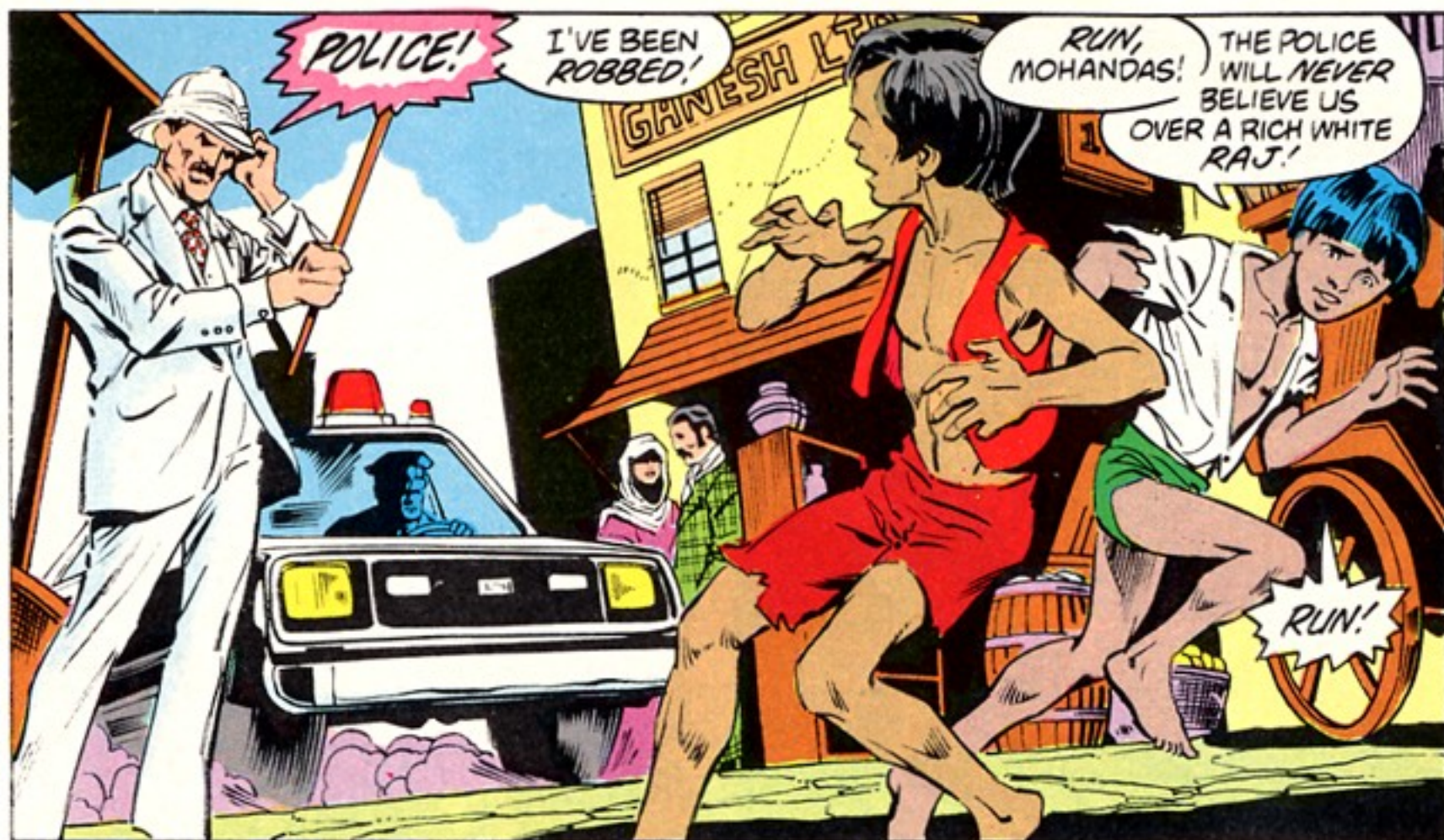
MOHANDAS--  
WAKE UP--  
A TOURIST!

A BRITISH RAT,  
TOO-- MAYBE WORTH  
A FEW COINS, IF  
YOU BEG RIGHT!

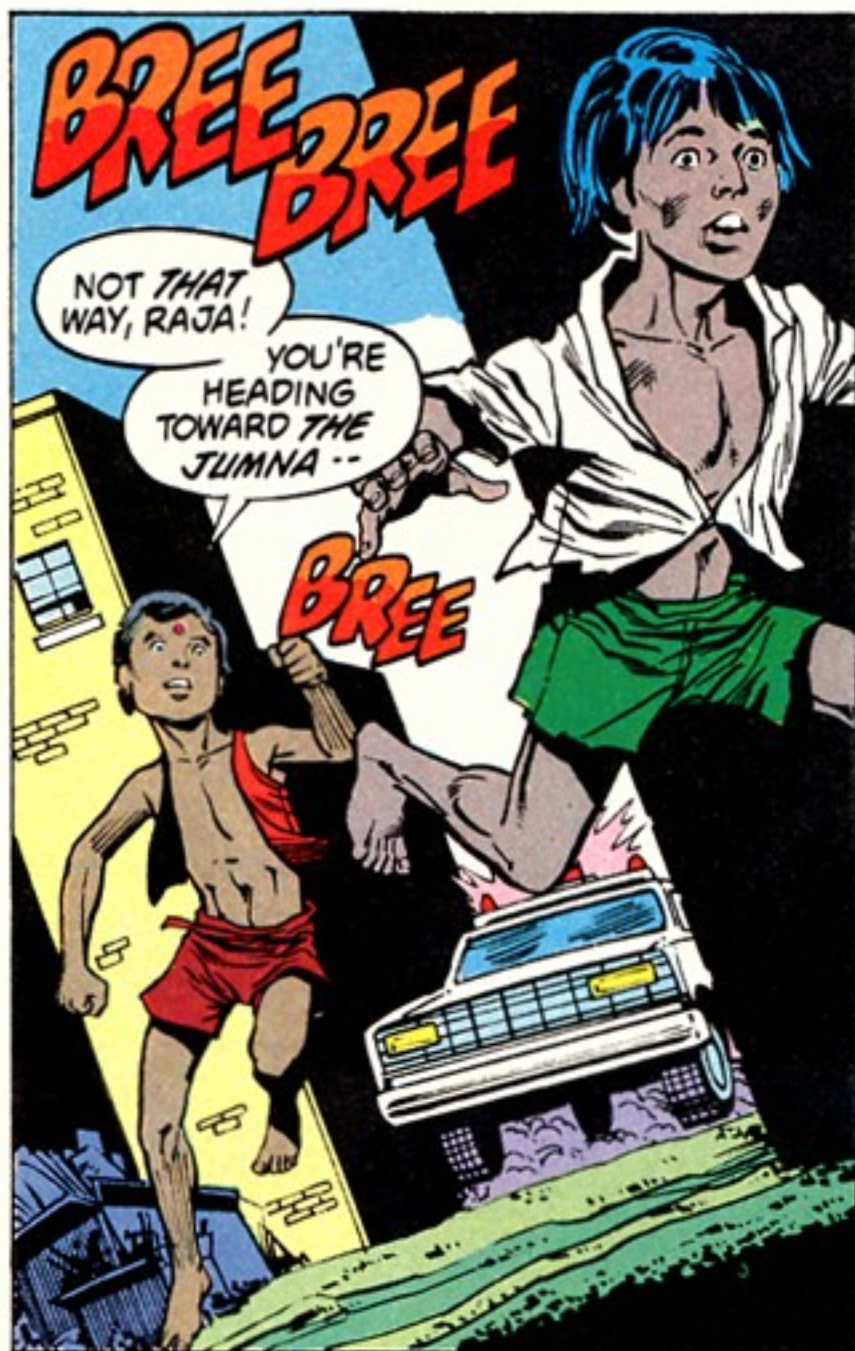


















...I WAS THE WORST KIND OF FOOL, SEEING WHAT I EXPECTED TO SEE--NOT WHAT WAS.

MY NAME IS MILES--  
PROFESSOR STANLEY  
MILES.

I'M  
HERE FOR A  
SYMPOSIUM-- THE WORLD  
GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, YOU  
KNOW.

AHH...BUT OF  
COURSE, YOU  
DON'T KNOW.

SEE HERE. I  
CAN'T BRING YOUR  
FRIEND BACK TO  
LIFE...BUT PER-  
HAPS I CAN  
GIVE YOU A  
LIFE...



BUT SINGH WASN'T  
LISTENING. IN HIS MIND,  
HE STILL HEARD THAT  
TERRIBLE SIREN WAIL--  
STILL SAW THOSE  
FLASHING LIGHTS--

-- AND EVEN NOW,  
TWENTY YEARS LATER,  
THEY THROW HIM INTO  
A KIND OF TRANCE,  
UNTIL--

-- SINGH...  
SINGH,  
SNAP OUT  
OF IT!

ARE YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?

Y-YES... YES, COMMANDER,  
VERY MUCH ALL RIGHT.

I WAS JUST--  
EH?

PROFESSOR MILES PAID HIS  
DEBT IN FULL, BY SENDING MOHANDAS  
SINGH TO THE FINEST SCHOOLS ON  
THREE CONTINENTS, AND RECOG-  
NIZING THE FINE MIND THAT HAD  
ALMOST BEEN SUFFOCATED BY  
OVERWHELMING POVERTY...



...A MIND THAT NOW  
FOCUSES WITH INSTANT  
ALERTNESS ON NEW  
INPUT, CAUSING MOHANDAS  
SINGH TO CRY OUT:

COMMANDER,  
DIRECTOR--THERE  
IS THE CAUSE  
OF THE ALARM!

A  
SPY!

SO MUCH FOR SIX  
YEARS OF TRAINING  
IN THE MARINES--  
I NEVER EVEN  
LOOKED UP!

I THOUGHT  
YOU TOLD US  
PROJECT: MULTIVERSE  
WAS TOP SECRET,  
PEREZ!

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND,  
MARTIN-- SECURITY  
WAS SO TIGHT--!

DEAR LADY, IF I  
RAN MY MEDICAL  
RESEARCH  
DEPARTMENT  
THE WAY SECURITY  
APPARENTLY HAS  
RUN THIS  
OPERATION--





OKAY,  
SISTER,  
END OF  
THE  
ROAD!

WH-WHA--?

--I'D SOON  
HAVE NO  
PATIENTS  
LEFT ALIVE!



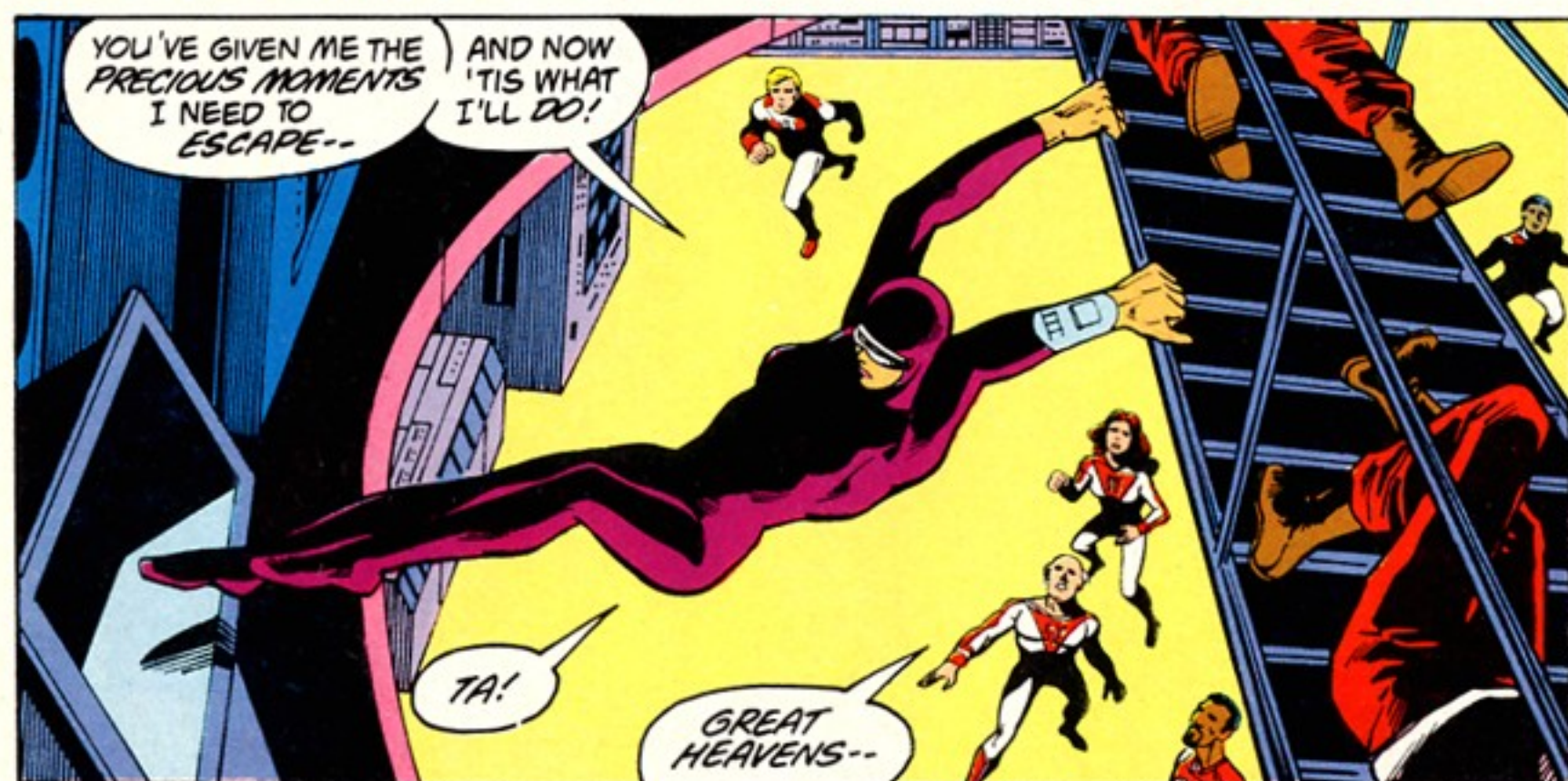


SARGE! SHE'S  
JUMPIN' AROUND LIKE  
SOME KIND OF  
KANGAROO!

TOO CLOSE TO  
USE MY WEAPONS-  
LASER WITHOUT  
HITTING YOU!

GOTTA GET  
SOME ROOM  
TO MANEUVER  
OR SHE'LL--









--SHE'S SLIPPED INTO  
THE VENTILATING DUCT  
THAT LEADS TO THE  
SCANNER ONE HANGAR!

SCANNER ONE IS  
THE VERY HEART OF  
PROJECT: MULTIVERSE!

EVEN  
SECURITY  
ISN'T  
ALLOWED ON  
THIS LEVEL!

HURRY-- WE  
HAVE TO STOP HER--  
BEFORE SOMETHING  
DISASTROUS  
HAPPENS!



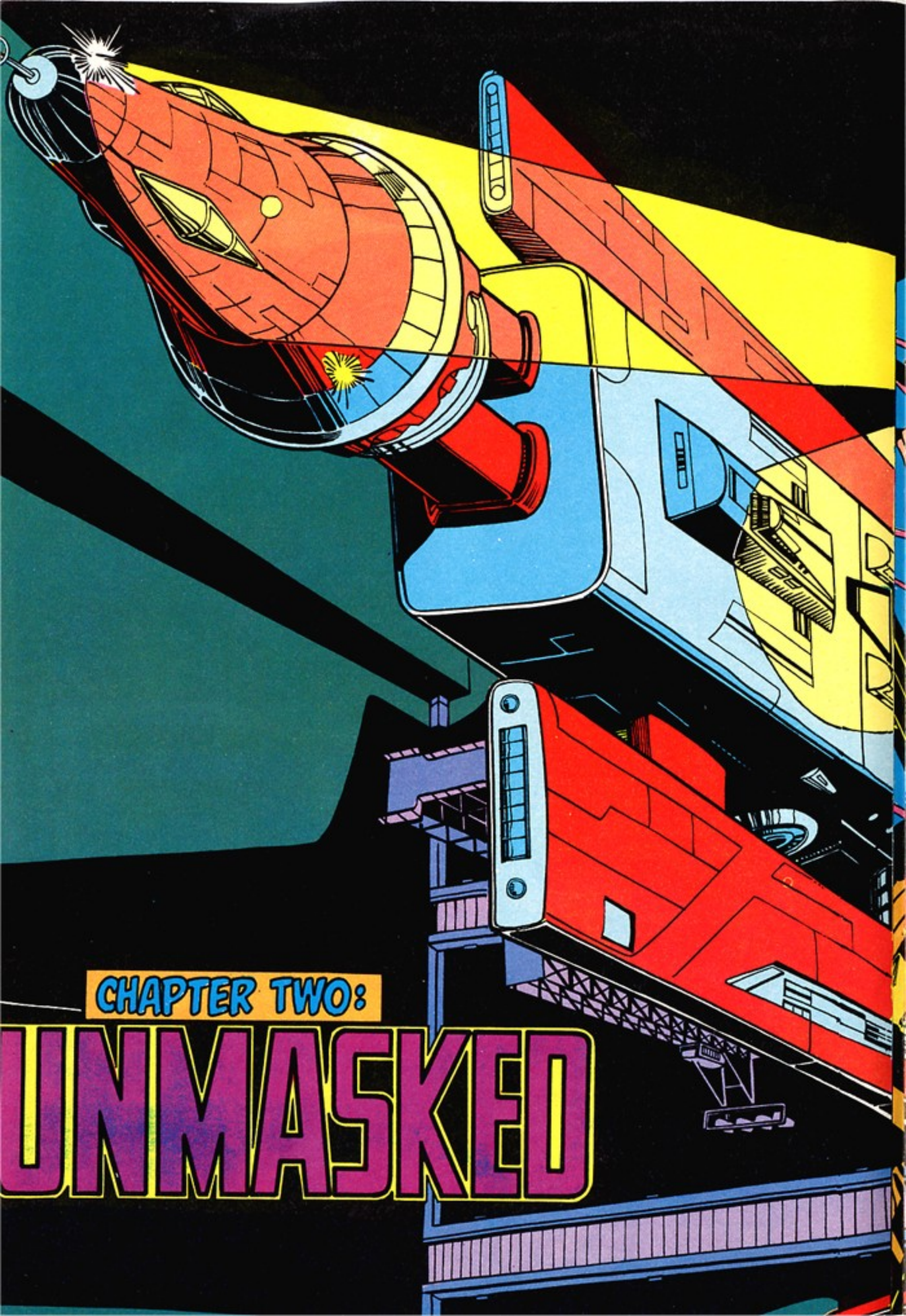
THE PROTECTIVE HATCH *UNSEALS*  
WITH A PNEUMATIC HISS, AND  
COMMANDER CHAMPION LEADS  
THE OTHERS THROUGH THE DOUBLE-  
LOCK... DRAWING UP SHORT ON  
THE FAR SIDE...

...HIS BREATH LITERALLY  
STOLEN BY THE  
SIGHT BEFORE  
HIM...



SO THAT'S  
THE BIG  
SECRET--





CHAPTER TWO:

# UNMASKED



-- SCANNER  
ONE IS A  
SPACESHIP!

OH, MARTIN--  
DON'T BE SUCH  
A BLIND IDIOT!

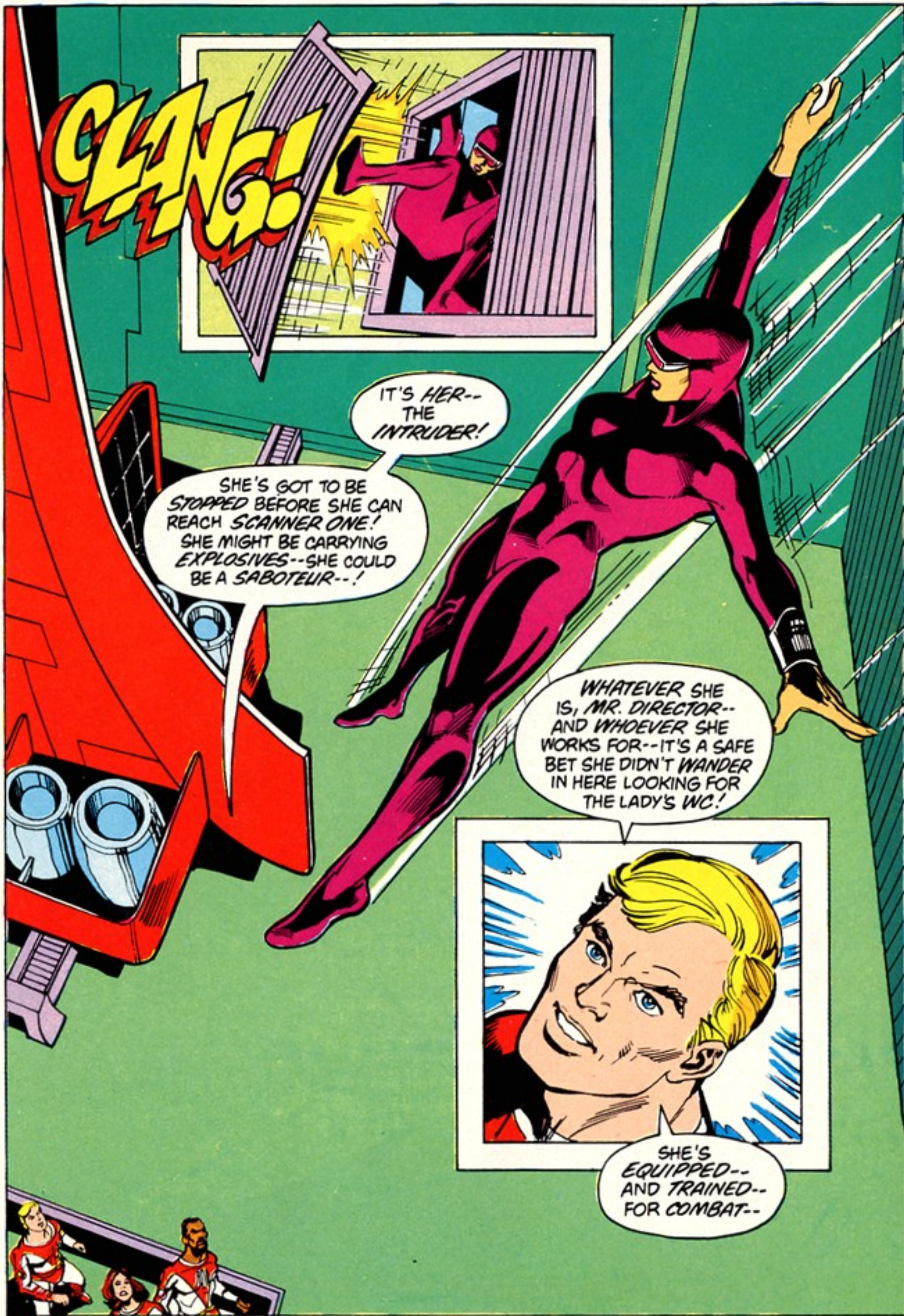
HOW CAN A  
SPACESHIP TAKE  
OFF FROM INSIDE  
A SEALED ROOM?

PEREZ, YOU  
MUST LEARN TO  
CURB THAT SHARP  
TONGUE OF YOURS!

COMMANDER  
CHAMPION CAN BE  
FORGIVEN FOR  
JUMPING TO  
CONCLUSIONS.

FOR NOW, LET ME ASSURE  
YOU, COMMANDER--YOU  
COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!















IF THAT HAD COME  
EVEN A CENTIMETER  
CLOSER-- UNNH!

TELL THE TRUTH  
NOW, COMMANDER:

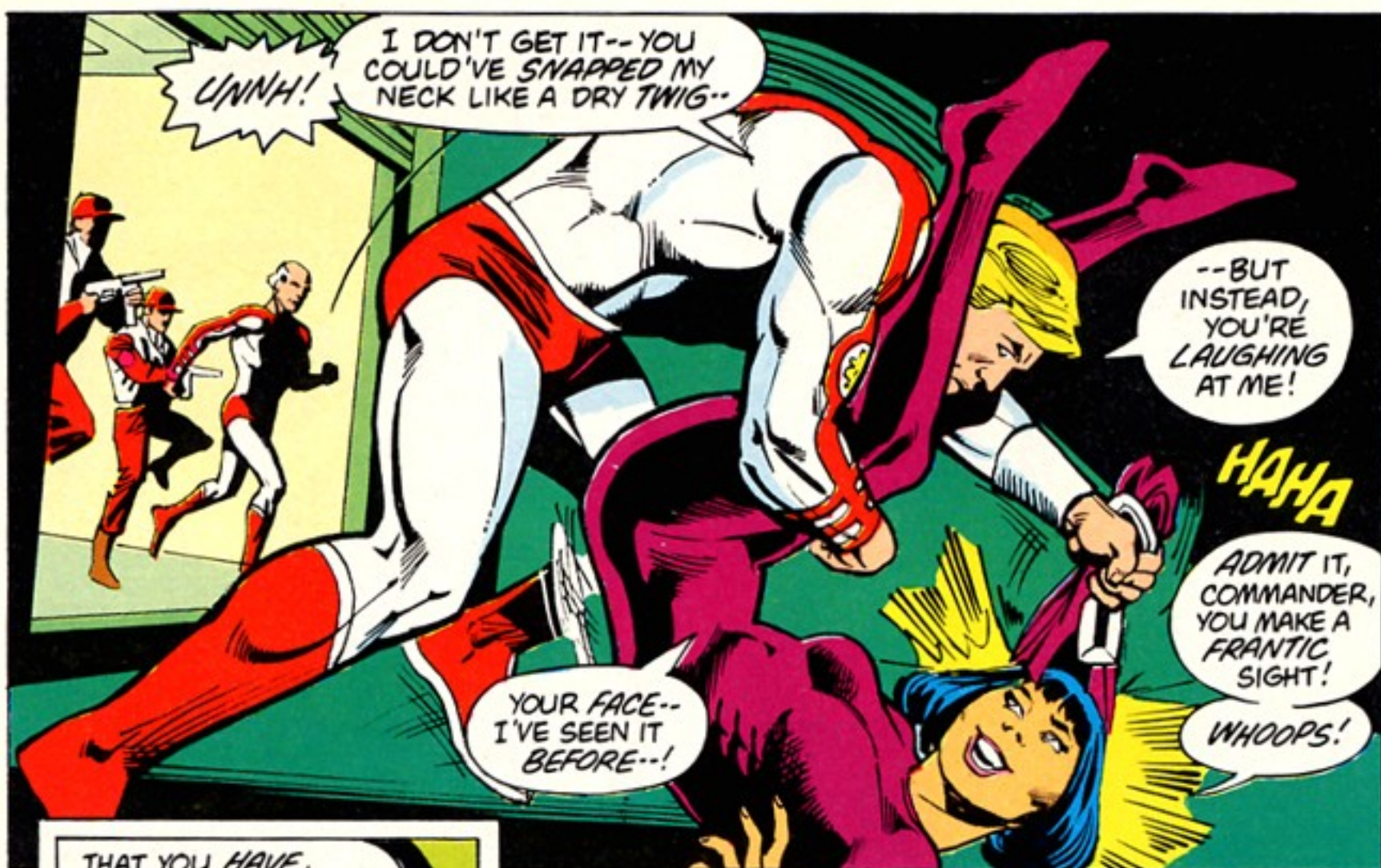
'TIS MORE  
OF A STRUGGLE  
THAN YOU  
EXPECTED,  
BESTING THIS  
LITTLE LASSIE!

AH, AND  
IF THAT'S THE  
CASE, MY  
LAD--

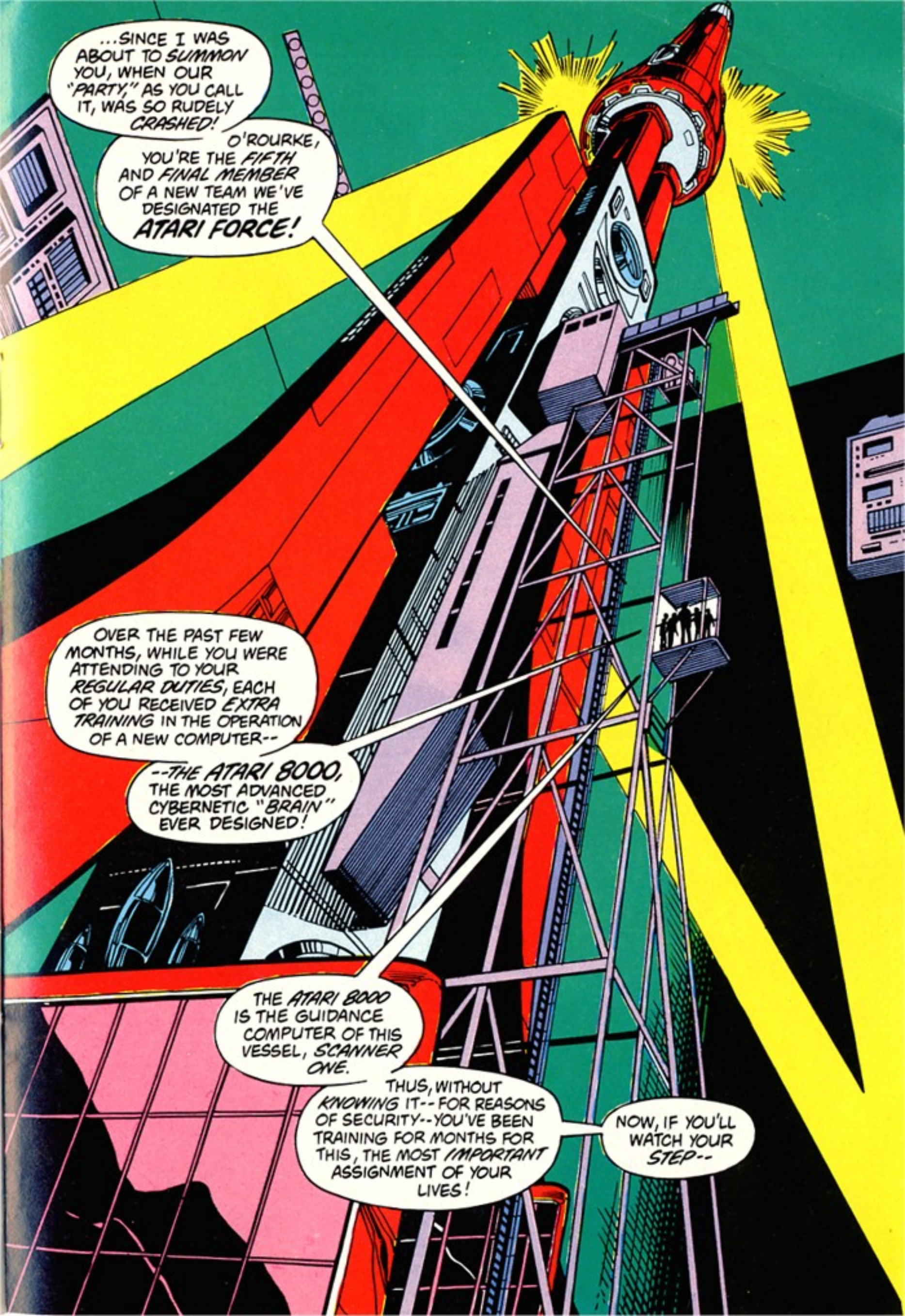
--THEN  
YOU'VE STILL GOT  
A LOT TO LEARN!

YEEOWW









...SINCE I WAS ABOUT TO SUMMON YOU, WHEN OUR "PARTY," AS YOU CALL IT, WAS SO RUDELY CRASHED!

O'ROURKE, YOU'RE THE FIFTH AND FINAL MEMBER OF A NEW TEAM WE'VE DESIGNATED THE **ATARI FORCE!**

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHILE YOU WERE ATTENDING TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES, EACH OF YOU RECEIVED EXTRA TRAINING IN THE OPERATION OF A NEW COMPUTER--

--THE **ATARI 8000**, THE MOST ADVANCED CYBERNETIC "BRAIN" EVER DESIGNED!

THE **ATARI 8000** IS THE GUIDANCE COMPUTER OF THIS VESSEL, **SCANNER ONE**.

THUS, WITHOUT KNOWING IT-- FOR REASONS OF SECURITY--YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR MONTHS FOR THIS, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT OF YOUR LIVES!

NOW, IF YOU'LL WATCH YOUR STEP--





--I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.

THIS FIRST COMPARTMENT IS THE MASTER AIRLOCK...

WHAT HAVE WEAPONS TO DO WITH A MISSION OF EXPLORATION?

WEAPONS EVERYWHERE, I SEE. MOST STRANGE.

DON'T BE NAIVE, SINGH.

WE MAY HOPE FOR PEACE--



--BUT WE MUST BE READY FOR WAR!

MY FATHER WAS A SOLDIER, AND MY MOTHER, TOO.


SHE WAS CHINESE--HE WAS IRISH--AND THEY RAISED ME IN AN IRELAND TORN BY CIVIL WAR FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS!



"AND SO, WHEN THE FIVE DAY WAR BROKE OUT, SEVEN YEARS AGO, ON OCTOBER 18, 1998, I WAS READY... OR SO I THOUGHT.

"MY UNITED NATIONS PARATROOP UNIT WAS PART OF A SPECIAL RESPONSE FORCE TO BE DROPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES..."





"DURING THE FIRST HOURS OF THE WAR, AFTER THE ATTACK ON NASA'S LUNAR COLONY THAT STARTED THE WHOLE MESS, THE ENEMY OCCUPIED A MAJOR OIL FIELD IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

"OUR MISSION WAS TO FREE THE OIL FIELD-- WITHOUT GIVING THE ENEMY A CHANCE TO DESTROY IT.

"I WAS A LIEUTENANT-- IN CHARGE OF MY OWN SQUAD.

"SAINTS PRESERVE ME, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS GOD'S SPECIAL CHILD, AND THAT NOTHING COULD HARM ME."



CHAPTER THREE:

# SPOILS OF WAR

"I WAS ALMOST  
RIGHT."

THAT'S ONE LESS  
ANTI-AIRCRAFT LASER  
TO BE BURNIN' OUR  
LADS LIKE TARGETS  
AT A SKEET SHOOT!





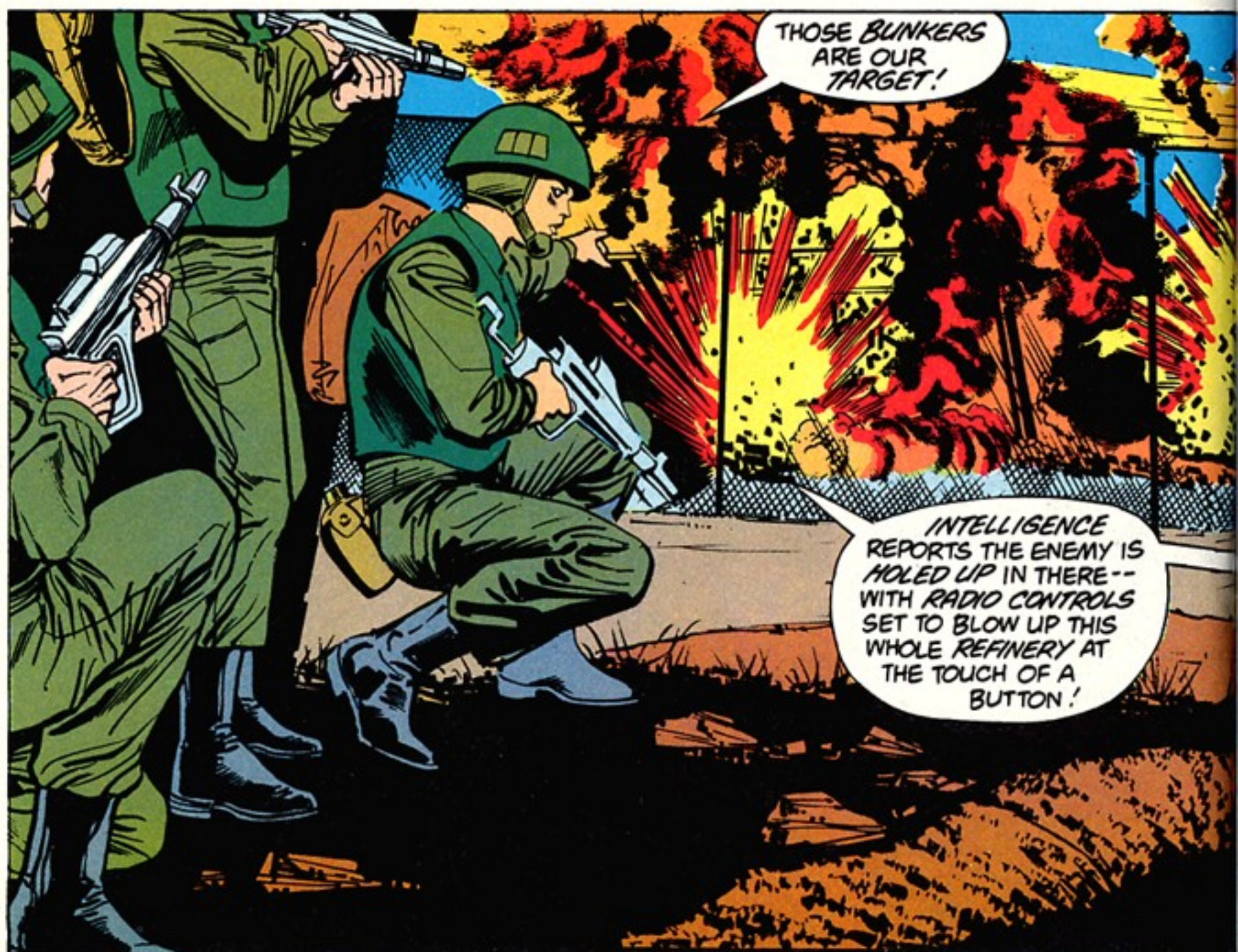


**BW HOOOM**


WHEN YOU HIT  
THE GROUND, TAKE  
COVER BEHIND  
THOSE TANKS!

WE'LL HAVE TWO  
MINUTES TO REGROUP,  
AND NOT A SECOND  
MORE!









"I WINCED AT THE DISAPPROVAL  
IN HER TONE, BUT AFTER ALL, WE  
WERE SOLDIERS-- WE WERE PAID  
TO TAKE RISKS; IT WAS OUR  
DUTY AND OUR HONOR."

"THE OTHERS WOULD JUST  
HAVE TO CATCH UP..."

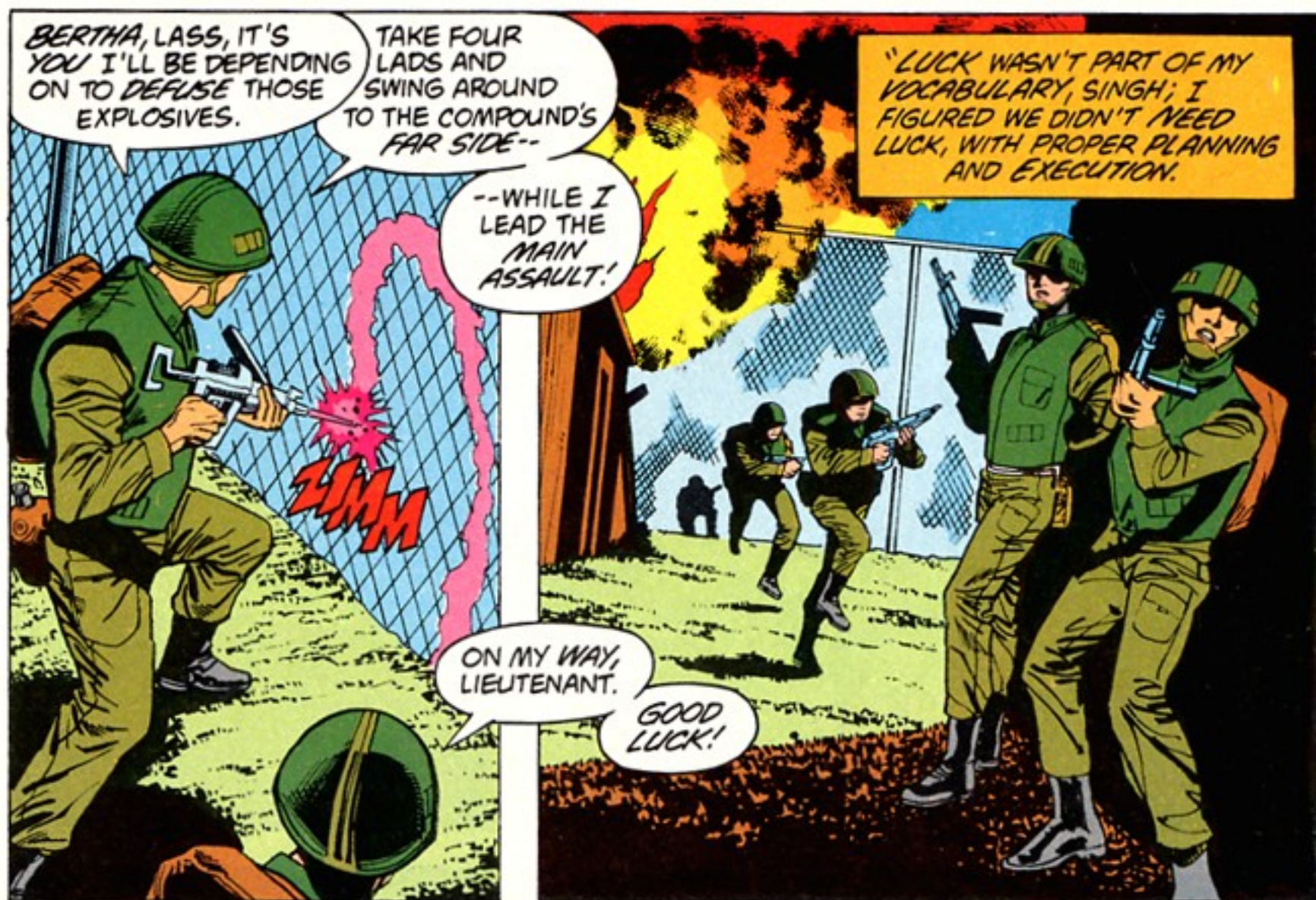
"...IF  
THEY  
COULD."



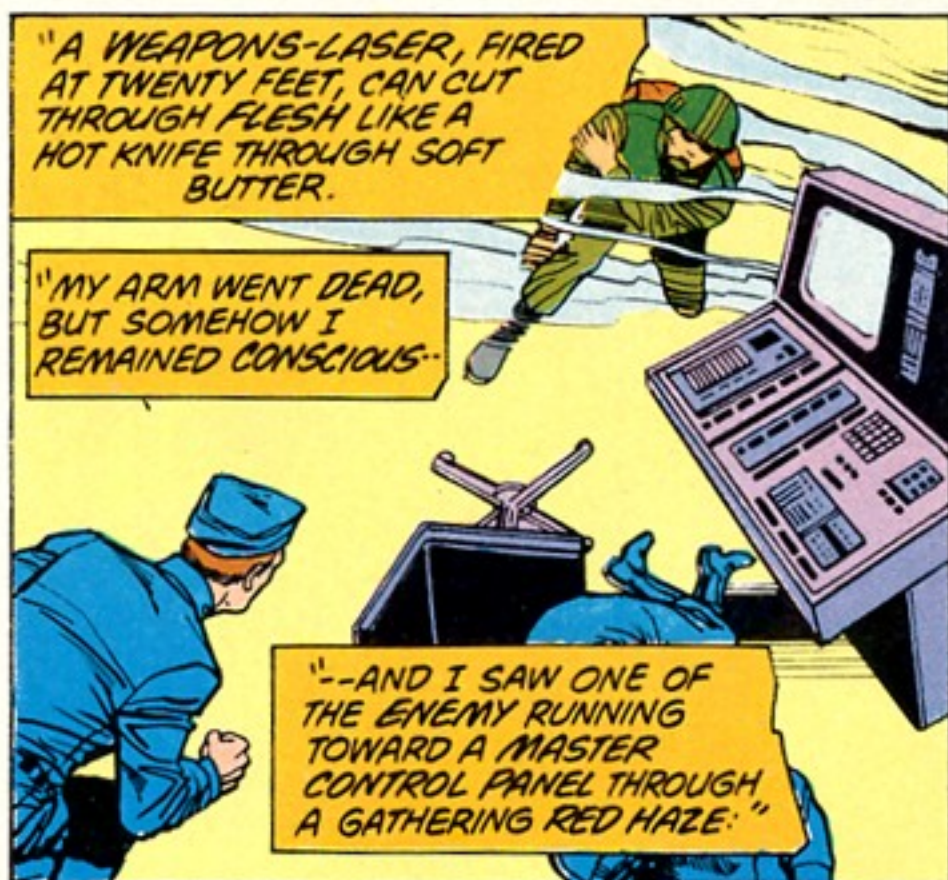
OUR FLYBOYS  
ARE LAYING DOWN  
A COVERING  
BOMBARDMENT.

WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE--  
DEFUSE THE EXPLOSIVES--  
AND CLEAN OUT THOSE  
BUNKERS!











NO!



THAT'S...  
THE REMOTE  
CONTROL PANEL...  
FOR EXPLOSIVES...!

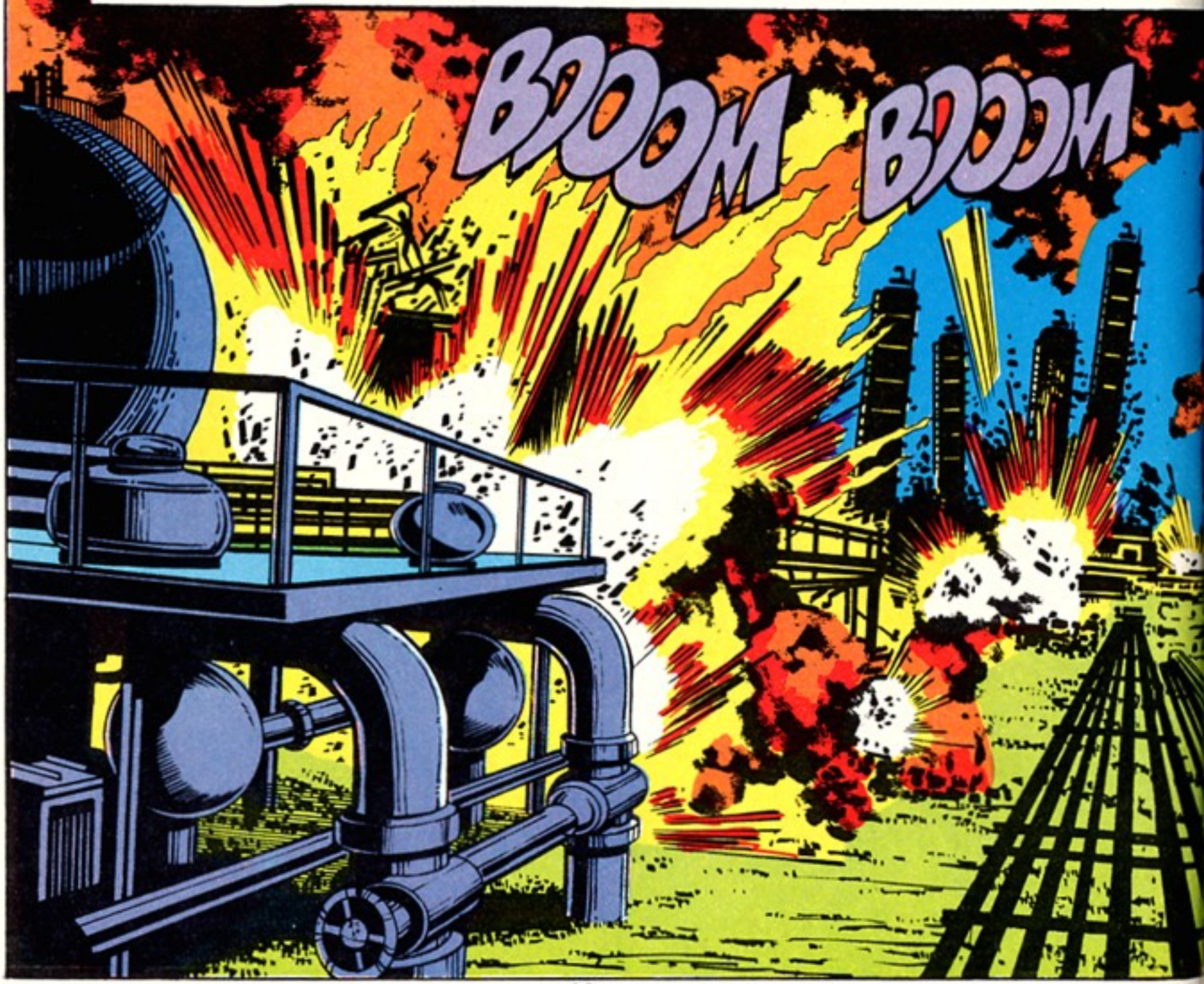
CAN'T LET  
YOU... REACH  
IT...!

BERTHA... OTHER  
SOLDIERS... STILL  
OUT THERE...!



STOP...  
STOP...!

BLOOM BLOOM







"THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED THE ONLY IMPORTANT LESSON OF WAR, SINGH:

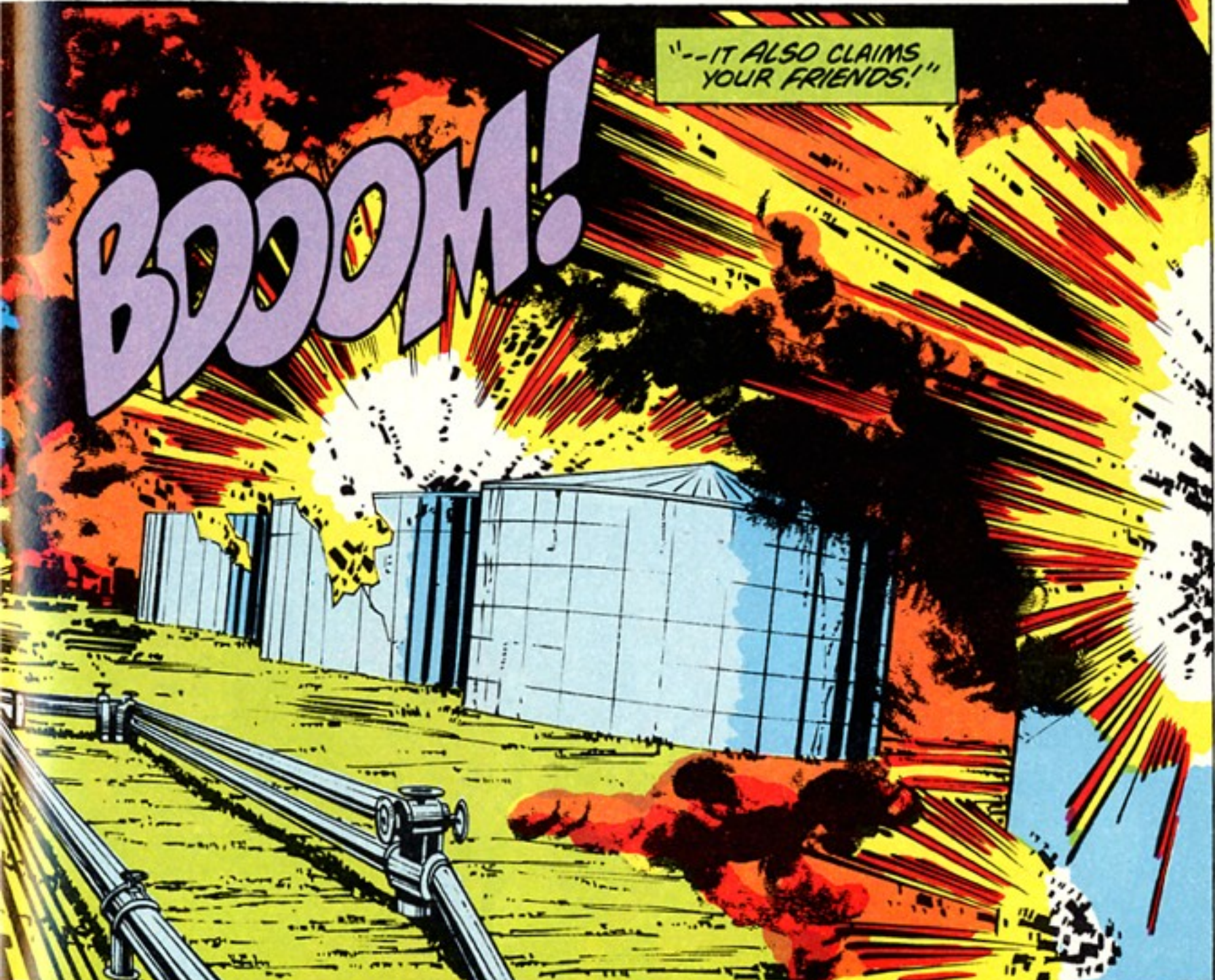
"NOT ONLY DOES WAR CLAIM YOUR ENEMIES--"

MY ARM!



OH DEAR LORD!

CLICK



"--IT ALSO CLAIMS YOUR FRIENDS!"



"THE EXPLOSIONS ECHOED  
LIKE NEAR THUNDER-- BUT  
I DIDN'T HEAR THEM.



"I'D GONE CRAZY--  
STRIKING THAT  
ENEMY SOLDIER  
AGAIN AND  
AGAIN, SOB-  
BING WITH  
GRIEF--

"--UNTIL, FINALLY,  
MY MEN HAD TO  
DRAG ME AWAY.



"YOU SEE, SINGH, I  
THOUGHT GOD WAS  
ON MY SIDE... THAT  
I COULDN'T BE  
HURT.



"BUT I'D FORGOTTEN  
THAT SOME OF WAR'S  
WORST WOUNDS...  
ARE THE WOUNDS YOU  
NEVER SEE."

FORGIVE ME, LI SAN, BUT UNDER  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I AM SURPRISED  
YOU'RE NOT A PACIFIST.

BUT I  
AM,  
SINGH.

AFTER THE WAR,  
I QUIT THE ARMY--  
AND JOINED ATARI.

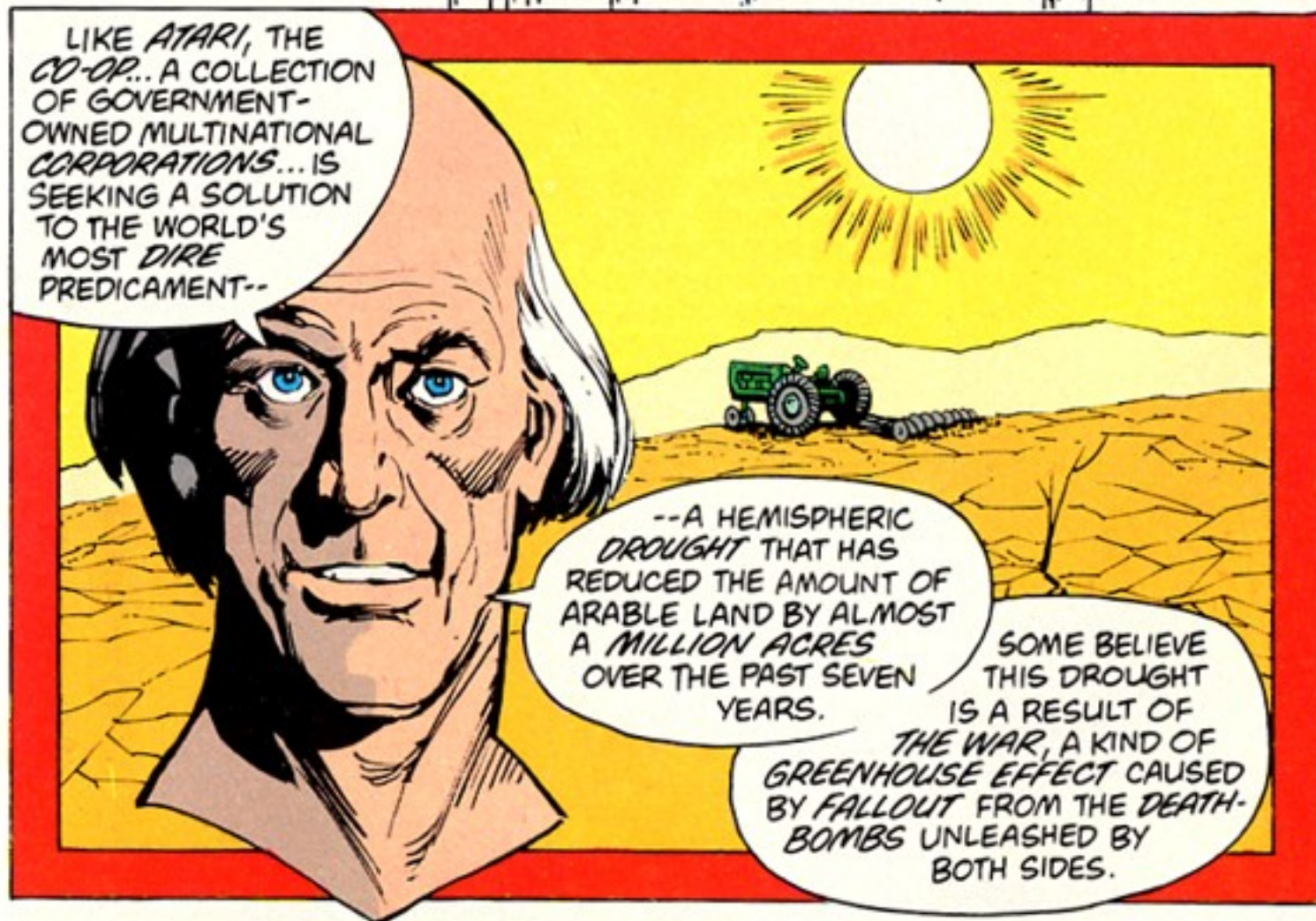
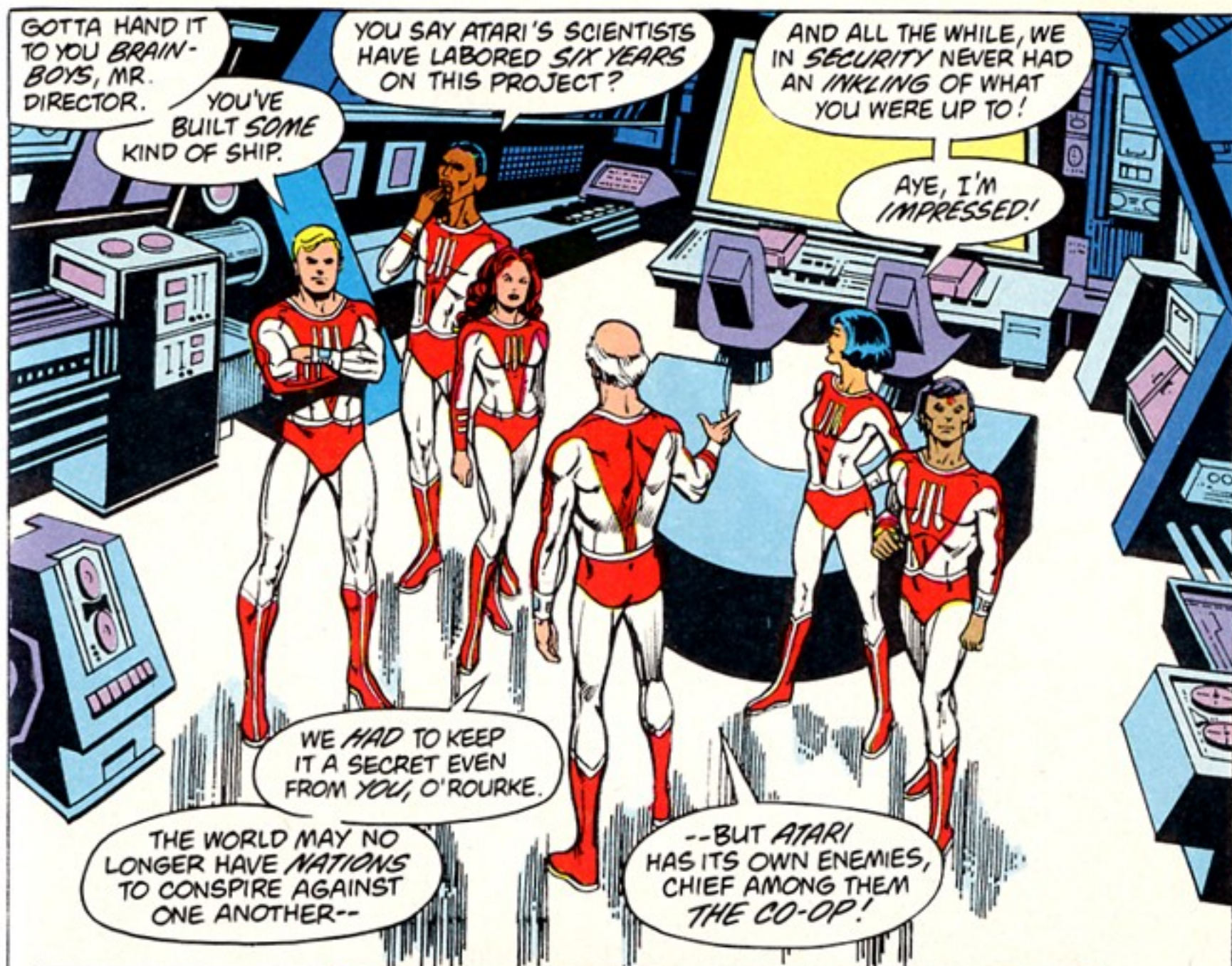
BEING WILLING  
TO DEFEND YOURSELF  
--AND BEING A  
PACIFIST--ARE NOT  
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE!

IF YOU  
SAY SO,  
LI SAN.

I FEAR  
DOCTOR  
ORION MIGHT  
NOT AGREE!









FORTUNATELY, ONLY TWO DEATH-BOMBS WERE EXPLODED IN THOSE LAST HOURS BEFORE OUR ENEMY'S GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED--

--OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE TODAY.

IN ANY CASE, EVEN THOUGH GREATLY REDUCED-- THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS IN DANGER OF IMMINENT STARVATION!

PROJECT: MULTIVERSE IS AN ATTEMPT TO ALLEVIATE POTENTIAL FAMINE --BY LOCATING INHABITABLE WORLDS AMONG THE INFINITY OF ALTERNATE REALITIES EXISTING IN OTHER DIMENSIONS PARALLEL TO OUR OWN!

SUCH WORLDS MAY BE PRIMITIVE JUNGLES--

--FUTURISTIC PARADISES--

--OR UNDERWATER WONDERLANDS! EACH WILL BE UNIQUE, WITH ITS OWN CULTURE, ITS OWN HISTORY!







WE'LL BEGIN WITH A  
SHORT TRIP--JUST A  
FEW DIMENSIONS--AS  
A WARM-UP, YOU  
UNDERSTAND.

IS EVERYONE  
COMFORTABLE?

SECURITY  
OFFICER  
O'ROURKE?

'TIS ALL HAPPENING  
SO FAST, MY HEAD'S  
BEEN SENT TO  
SPINNING!



BUT TO ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTION, LADDIE--  
AYE, I'M AS COMFORTABLE  
AS A LEPRECHAUN WITH  
HIS OWN POT OF GOLD!

EXCELLENT. AND YOU,  
FLIGHT ENGINEER SINGH?

I AM BREATHLESS AND  
AWED, BUT SUCH, AFTER ALL,  
IS THE NATURAL CONDITION  
OF MAN.

OTHER  
THAN  
THAT--



--I TOO  
AM QUITE  
COMFORTABLE.



NO NEED TO ASK  
HOW I'M DOING,  
COMPUTER.

MY GREATEST DESIRE  
IS TO HELP HUMANITY  
RECOVER FROM THE  
MADNESS OF THE  
WAR.

THIS IS LIKE  
A DREAM COME  
TRUE.



I TAKE THAT AS  
AN AFFIRMATIVE,  
DOCTOR. COMMANDER  
CHAMPION... MISSION  
PILOT PEREZ...

...ARE YOU  
READY?

I CAN'T SPEAK  
FOR MY EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER, COMPUTER--

--BUT I'M  
STRAINING AT  
THE BIT.

ONE POINT,  
THOUGH--DON'T WE  
NEED SOME HANGAR  
DOORS UP THERE?



HOW DO  
WE GET  
OUT?





WE DON'T NEED  
HANGAR DOORS,  
COMMANDER--

--BECAUSE WE ARE  
NOT TRAVELING  
THROUGH SPACE, NOR  
EVEN THROUGH  
TIME!

OUR  
VOYAGE IS  
THROUGH  
MULTIPLE  
DIMENSIONS!



LIKE THE  
CHESHIRE CAT IN  
"ALICE IN WONDER-  
LAND," WE SHALL BE  
HERE ONE MOMENT,  
AND IN THE NEXT  
MOMENT, WE SHALL  
BE--

MMMM

GONE!





GOOD LORD.

WHERE ARE WE?

WE'RE IN THE VOID BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, COMMANDER.

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO.



SINGH... O'ROURKE... ORION... ANY PROBLEMS?

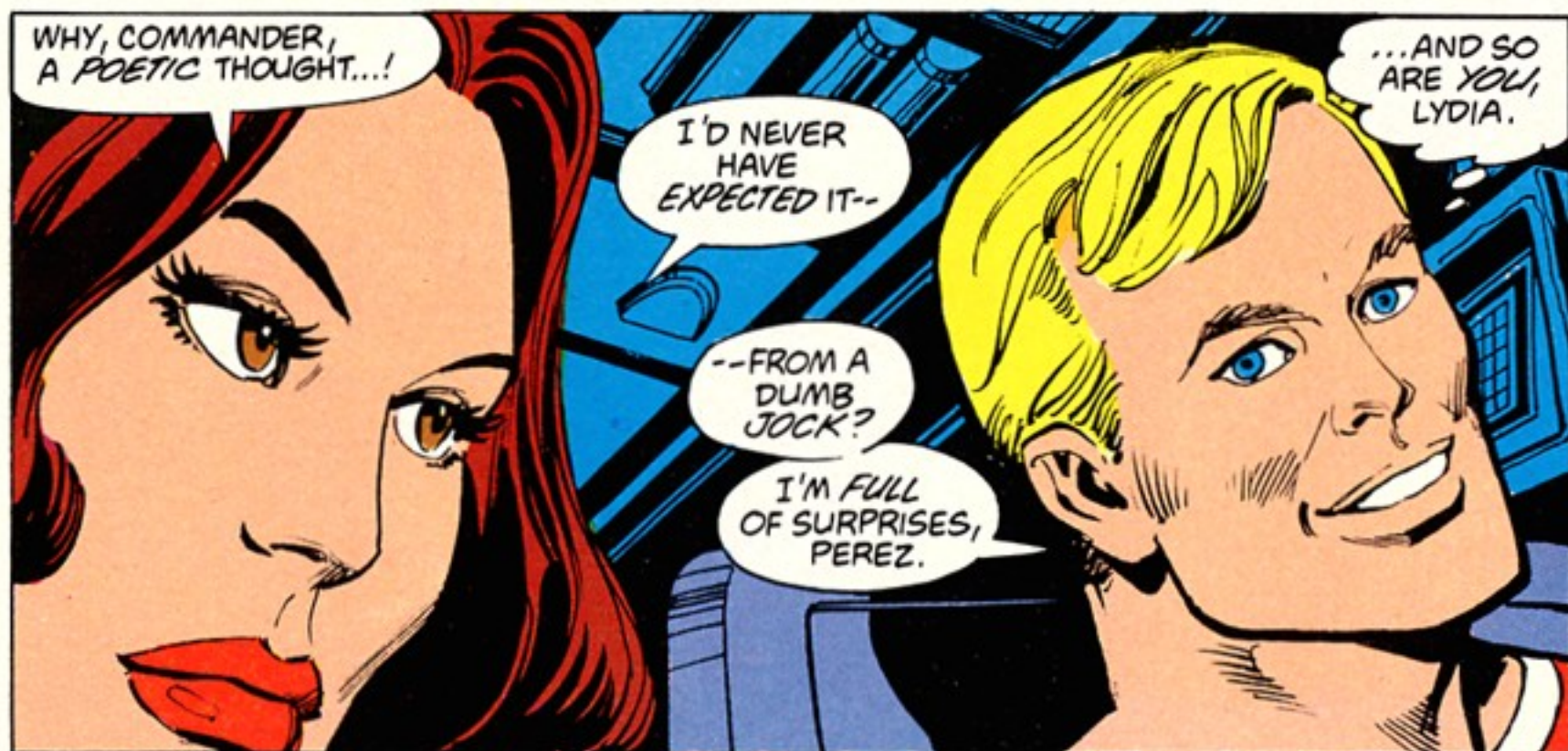
NONE, MARTIN.

SCANNER ONE IS SECURE!

MARTIN... OLD FRIEND... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SIGHT AS BEAUTIFUL?

NEVER, LUCAS.

IT'S LIKE GAZING INTO THE FACE OF GOD.



WHY, COMMANDER, A POETIC THOUGHT...!


I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED IT--

--FROM A DUMB JOCK?

I'M FULL OF SURPRISES, PEREZ.

...AND SO ARE YOU, LYDIA.





BEFORE THIS TRIP  
IS OVER, I'M GOING TO  
FIND OUT WHAT'S  
BUGGING YOU,  
PEREZ.

I THOUGHT WE  
WERE FRIENDS--BUT  
YOU'VE BEEN CRITICAL  
OF ME EVER SINCE  
WE GOT BACK  
TOGETHER!

THE MYSTERIES OF  
THE MULTIVERSE AREN'T  
THE ONLY MYSTERIES  
WE'RE GOING TO UNRAVEL  
ON THIS VOYAGE.

THAT'S A  
PROMISE!

FOR NOW--THE END!

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES-- READ  
THE NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER IN THE  
SAGA OF THE ATARI FORCE,  
IN: **STAR RAIDERS™**  
AVAILABLE SOON!



THEIR MISSION:  
**SAVE THE UNIVERSE!**

# ATARI FORCE

DON'T MISS  
THE FURTHER  
EPIC ADVENTURES  
OF THE CREW OF

## SCANNER ONE

IN FREE BONUS COMICS  
AVAILABLE ONLY IN  
SPECIALLY-MARKED  
CARTRIDGES FOR  
**ATARI'S VIDEO  
COMPUTER SYSTEM!**

ATARI FORCE 3 IN  
**STAR RAIDERS**

ATARI FORCE 4 IN  
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**BOTH AVAILABLE  
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